

REMARKS

This paper is filed in response to the Office action mailed on April 17, 2008. At the outset, Applicant appreciates the Examiner's allowance of claims 14-41 and 44-48, and indication that claims 4 and 6-12 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form. In view of the amendments and remarks submitted herein, Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and allowance of all pending claims.

Turning to the Office action, independent claim 1 is rejected as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,792,152 ("Klein") and U.S. Patent No. 2,828,744 ("Hirsch"). In response, Applicant has hereby amended independent claim 1 to incorporate the allowable subject matter of claim 4, as indicated in the outstanding Office action. Claim 4 is cancelled accordingly. As a result of this amendment, amended independent claim 1, as well as claims 2-3, 5, and 7-13 depending thereupon, are all in condition for allowance.

With respect to claim 6, Applicant has followed the Examiner's suggestion and has rewritten claim 6 in independent form, incorporating all of the limitations of the rejected base claim. Accordingly, claim 6 is in condition for allowance as well.

An early action indicating the allowability of this application is respectfully requested. If a telephone call would expedite prosecution of the present application, the Examiner is invited to call the undersigned agent. The undersigned verifies that he is authorized to act on behalf of the assignee of the present application.

Appl. No. 09/621,670
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Respectfully submitted,



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